

هذه من الأصل

Jordan Times

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Today's Weather

A "khamasiyah" depression will cause warm, dry and hazy conditions, with clouds of varying heights and southwesterly moderate winds, freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be hazy and dusty, with southerly fresh winds and rough seas.

	Overnight		Daytime	
	Low	High	Low	High
Amman	7	24	14	30
Aqaba	14	30	5	23
Deserts	5	23	11	27
Jordan Valley	11	27		

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 22, Aqaba 28. Sunset tonight: 6:01 p.m. Sunrise tomorrow: 5:14 a.m.

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AMMAN, TUESDAY APRIL 7, 1981 — JUMADA AL THANI 3, 1401

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Chatti says 'Iran and Iraq ready to end Gulf fighting'

AMMAN, April 6 (R) — Iran and Iraq appear ready to end their six-month war and have promised to reply by the end of the week to peace proposals.

Mr. Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, said today.

By the end of the week we will have their reply to our peace proposals and I am optimistic that they will be to a large extent positive," he told news-

The Vatican is opposed to the annexation of Jerusalem by Israel and has also spoken out for the right of the Palestinian people to determine their own future, he noted.

Malmiero Peoli and Mr. L.K.H. Goma, the Zambian foreign minister. Apparently there was no progress on approval from Iraq for the group to travel to Baghdad. A message from Iran had opened the "possibility" of the team visiting Tehran after April 11.

Mr. Chatti, who has been shuttling between Tebran and Iraq as of an Islamic peace mission, said: "Everybody I have met in the two countries said they are ready to end the war."

Mr. Chatti said the new outbreak of hostilities in Lebanon was the direct result of the Palestinian problem. Apart from that, future collaboration between Muslims and Christians largely depended on a solution of the Palestine issue, he declared.

The four met together and with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi Saturday and for an hour with each other yesterday. The group was set up by the non-aligned ministerial meeting here in February.

And I have the impression that the sides are now ready to move along a path which could end the conflict, he said.

Mr. Chatti added that he and the Pope had agreed on the need to start a dialogue between the world's two largest religious communities; but said they did not discuss any concrete steps on how to institutionalise such talks.

Prospects faded today for an early start to a non-aligned peace mission aimed at resolving the Iran-Iraq conflict with the departure of one of the team, Mr. Farouk Qaddoumi of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Reagan recovering well but fever recurs

WASHINGTON, April 6 (R) — President Reagan's damaged lung appears to be clearing, but he continues to run a mild intermittent fever. The White House reported today, one week after he was shot.

The regular morning medical bulletin on Mr. Reagan's condition said an X-ray of his chest showed modest clearing of what had been a "ruler termed" infiltrates in the left lung, where he was wounded by a .32-calibre bullet.

Those infiltrates, doctors explained earlier, could be dried blood, lung tissue or bacteria. Today's bulletin said there was no evidence of bacterial infection, as a precautionary measure, the 71-year-old president was given broader types of antibiotics yesterday.

He continued to run a moderate intermittent fever, the White House said, but spent a restful night and remained alert and in good spirits.

Scots team vows help for Palestinian cause

DUNDEE, April 6 (AP) — A five-man Scottish delegation headed by Provost of Dundee James Gowans pledged today to "deepen understanding of the Palestinian question all over Britain."

The delegation arrived last Friday from the Israeli-occupied West Bank of Jordan, where they attended meetings with dignitaries in the city of Nablus.

Mr. Gowans said he had seen Israeli "suppression of the Palestinians" in the occupied region. Another member of the delegation, parliamentarian Ernie Ross, was quoted by the agency as saying that the Dundee city council had been "threatened by the Israeli embassy in London" and other pressure groups. Dundee, he told the agency, has decided to "stand with Nablus, and he said that pro-Palestinian organisations in Dundee will not hesitate to support the Arabs against the Israelis.

He denied a report by the right-wing Falangist radio that Soviet advisers were helping Syrian troops in the Bekaa Plain area around Zahle. "All this information is lies," he said.

Falangist radio said the Syrians used aircraft to support their artillery in bombarding militia positions in the mountains overlooking Zahle, which has a largely Christian population of 15,000. But an ADF source rejected the allegation.



Khaddam reported due in Beirut today

Jumblatt predicts major confrontation in Lebanon

BEIRUT, April 6 (R) — Fresh fighting in Beirut and renewed artillery duelling round the eastern town of Zahle brought warnings today from a prominent leftist leader that Lebanon is on the brink of a major military confrontation.

Nahar said Syria was insisting on a Falangist withdrawal from Zahle as a condition for a ceasefire. It is the only rightist stronghold in the Bekaa, which is otherwise dominated by the Syrians.

Residents in Zahle, contacted by telephone, said there was now a shortage of bread and that they had been without electricity for six days.

The Lebanese daily *Al Safir* said leftist leader Walid Jumblatt had placed his men on alert and quoted him as saying the country faced the danger of an imminent full-scale military explosion.

They said many of those killed in the town had been buried in their gardens, with mourners unable to get to cemeteries because of the shelling and sniping.

Official sources in Damascus said President Assad reaffirmed his country's keenness to preserve Lebanon's security and stability during his telephone contact with Mr. Sarkis.

Mr. Jumblatt is head of the leftist alliance, known as the National Movement, which is allied with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Lebanon.

Yesterday, Lebanon's United Nations representative, Mr. Ghasan Tuani, said the country had reached the limits of survival and

the sudden upsurge in violence had taken it closer than ever to partition.

Fierce mortar, rocket and machine-gun fire this morning shattered a relative overnight calm in Beirut, though it later died down, and Israeli fighter jets made two sweeps over the capital, drawing anti-aircraft fire.

The spokesman said the ceasefire, former French ambassador to Lebanon Hubert Argod, would leave soon. He did not specify the type of aid which France would grant.

In Beirut, a French embassy spokesman said Mr. Argod would arrive there tomorrow.

Reporters at the damaged village of Hoche Al Omara, on the outskirts of the blockaded town, said ADF gunners this morning exchanged intense fire with militiamen posted in the hills to the northwest of Zahle.

Paris, April 6 (R) — French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing is sending a special emissary to Beirut to meet Lebanon's President Elias Sarkis and see how France can help, a presidency spokesman said today.

Meanwhile, 30 Lebanese students, most of them Christians, have withdrawn from their country's embassy in Paris, after peacefully occupying it for seven hours today to protest against Syrian action in Lebanon.

Officials in both Beirut and Damascus said Syrian Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam would visit Beirut tomorrow for talks with President Sarkis about the fighting, in which more than 140 people have died and about 500 have been wounded in the past week.

The French aid offer coincided with the departure to Beirut of a four-man surgical team from the private Paris-based "Doctors Without Frontiers" organisation. The group said they hoped to make their way to the Lebanese town of Zahle, which has been under Syrian bombardment.

The head of the right-wing "Lebanese Forces", Mr. Bashir Gemayel, meanwhile, told the *Le Monde* newspaper in an interview: "We want political, and if necessary, military aid to help liberate us."

He denied a report by the right-wing Falangist radio that Soviet advisers were helping Syrian troops in the Bekaa Plain area around Zahle. "All this information is lies," he said.

Mr. Gemayel, speaking in Beirut, did not say from where he expected such aid to come. But he added that those countries which called on Syria to cease its current military action in Lebanon were of no help.

The ceasefire doesn't matter, nor does it matter whether we lose

Warns against polarisation Hussein receives Haig

AMMAN, April 6 (JT/Petra/Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein today warned against the "polarisation" of the Middle East conflict, stressing Jordan's insistence on the importance of keeping the Arab region free of "the policies of polarisation and international hegemony."

He also stressed that the Middle East should be allowed to maintain its "identity, independence and free will." King Hussein was speaking during a two-hour meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig at the royal court this afternoon.

King Hussein reviewed the causes and background of the Palestine issue, emphasising that it is the crux of the dispute in the Middle East. The King affirmed that the key to the security and stability of the Middle East rests in finding a just, comprehensive and durable solution of the Palestine problem. He explained that this problem was the key which had opened the door to turbulence, instability and problems in this important area of the world.

King Hussein asserted that the basis of a just and comprehensive settlement is the termination of the Israeli occupation, the return of the occupied Arab land to its owners—most importantly the return of the Arab Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty—the achievement of justice for the Palestinian Arab people and their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination on the soil of their homeland.

King Hussein affirmed that the Camp David agreements failed to achieve a comprehensive peace, and are incapable of achieving such a peace, because they overlooked the central issue of the Middle East dispute, namely the Palestine issue. He also reviewed Middle East developments, including the Iraqi-Iranian war and the situation in Lebanon, and explained Jordan's stand on these developments.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Majesty King Hussein welcomed Mr. Haig and expressed his hopes for the quick recovery of President Ronald Reagan from last week's assassination attempt. During the meeting, Mr. Haig reviewed the basic policies of the new U.S. administration. He asserted that the new administration under President Ronald Reagan gave special importance to the Middle East, and the indication of this was that the first mission on which President Reagan sent him was to this area.

Mr. Haig explained that U.S. diplomacy does not seek to arrange priorities in this area. Seeking to achieve the security and stability of the Middle East area does not mean that a just and comprehensive peace should not be achieved, he said. The secretary of state praised Jordanian-U.S. relations, and affirmed the United States' eagerness to develop these relations for the better and to strengthen the relations of friendship between the Jordanian and American peoples.

The meeting was attended on the U.S. side by four top aides including former ambassador to Jordan Nicholas Velonis, who now holds the post of assistant secretary of state for Near East and South Asian affairs; the U.S. charge d'affaires in Amman and several officials of the State Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Haig arrived in Amman this afternoon for a one-day official visit to Jordan. The visit is part of the tour the U.S. secretary of state is making to several countries in the area with the aim of having talks with their leaders and getting acquainted with their views on developments in the Middle East, particularly the Palestine issue.

Before travelling to Jordan, Mr. Haig condemned Syrian attacks on a rightist enclave in Lebanon and warned of "most serious" consequences if the attacks continue. He also said the Soviet Union could be behind the fighting.

"The consequences of a failure of a return to a cease fire are most, most serious," Mr. Haig told reporters in occupied Jerusalem just before flying to Jordan. The outbreak of fighting in Lebanon occupied much of Mr. Haig's attention during a 24-hour visit to Israel, and he suggested the Soviet Union might be encouraging the fighting to divert attention from its threats to Poland.

France offers to help

Zahle or whether Beirut is bombed," he was quoted as saying. "What we want this time is that the (Lebanese) problem be placed squarely and fully in the open."

In Paris, former Lebanese president Charles Helou asked on French television: "How can international public opinion, U.N. member states and the Security Council tolerate the regular army of one state (Syria) bombing a whole city, Zahle, and part of another, Beirut, which are in a separate country?"

Syria puts a chip on its shoulder

DAMASCUS, April 6 (R) — Syria's official press today brushed aside Israeli statements supporting the rightist militia fighting Syrian troops in Lebanon, and said Damascus would not be scared by Israeli threats.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said yesterday Israel could not stand idly watching what he called the Syrian massacre of Lebanese Christians.

Al Baath, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party in Syria, said today that "Israel will be suffering from illusions if it thinks that Syria will allow the Falangist gangs to mess things up in Lebanon, serving the American-Zionist plan."

The paper said Israel's stand on the issue would not protect "the hiring Falangist gangs" nor help to make them a bridgehead in conspiracies against Syria and the Arab cause.

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INTERNATIONAL

Action and law

CRC conducts humanitarian struggle on two fronts

By Dina Matar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 5 — For many years, countries and government officials have been putting their signatures to a series of international laws to humanise war. But words on paper do not mean a thing — it is actions that count.

is the theme of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which is currently using a seminar in Amman in cooperation with the Jordanian Red Crescent Society.

time. And for over 100 years, the Red Cross has been on to move to extend its services all over the world, during peace as well as in war.

wounded soldiers. But the ICRC's most difficult task comes under the heading of "action". Delegates have to be constantly on the go and can always be called upon to risk lives. The main purpose of the Red Cross is to seek out and alleviate suffering, protect life and health and uphold the dignity of man. The ICRC has become famous for its aid to refugees, prisoners of war and the wounded.

have taken the form of medical assistance, relief and visits to detainees and prisoners of war. "The ICRC is always willing to give aid to needy people, and the Palestinian refugees have been no exception," Mr. Sommer said. "However, the help is carried through the responsible agencies in a certain country, like UNRWA" (the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees).

said. "The seminar which is currently taking place in Amman is the last in a series," he said, adding that this is the first time a seminar is being held in Arabic. "It is a means not only to train personnel, but to disseminate knowledge of international humanitarian law to everyone," he said.

The general public has not been overlooked by the committee. The man in the street is constantly informed of the ICRC's activities and ideals. "Trying to rouse the conscience of the world has been the most difficult duty of the ICRC, and its work in this respect has earned it universal recognition."

Mr. Sommer said: "We hope that this seminar will help us convey our ideas to the Middle East region, and we are sure that the Jordanian people will cooperate because they have suffered and they know what suffering means."



Although the emblems of the ICRC and the JRC are different, the two organisations have much in common. Since 1967, they have cooperated in aiding refugees, prisoners of war and the wounded.

ART REVIEW

Kaplanian: Gentle sketches and paintings of local scenes

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, April 6 — A local artist who catches Jordan's familiar landscapes and the charm of recognizable old buildings and streets in gentle sketches, water-colours and oils is an artist who is much appreciated, and whose work is easily accessible to many who share the experience of the same scenes.

George Kaplanian is just such an artist. Born in Jerusalem, he lived in Bethlehem, and he has been painting and living in Jordan for the last five years. Some of his work, now on show at the British Council, captures the calm desolation in the ruins of Jerash and the tranquillity of Jerusalem.



George Kaplanian

the foreground detailed trees, to the rolling cultivated brown hills behind. But the brightly clad, sketchily drawn figures, particularly in "Old Souk, Old Jerusalem", detract from the finely drawn sombre interior, as do the wild flowers — small dots of bright colour — in the otherwise well-composed "Temple of Zeus", where the distant columns are seen marching down a distant hillside through a gap in the ruins.



The ICRC's most difficult task comes under 'action'. Delegates have to be constantly on the go and can always be called upon to risk lives.



"Minaret in Castle of Antonia, Jerusalem" by George Kaplanian

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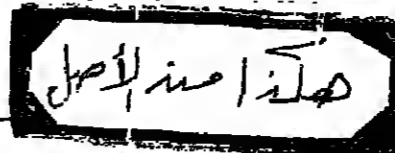
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MIDDLE EAST

Saudis welcome 'constructive' role by superpowers

MECCA, April 6 (R) — Saudi Arabia hopes to have strong relations with the superpowers but does not deceive itself that this can be based on friendship, foreign minister Prince Saud Al Faisal was quoted yesterday as saying.

"If the role of the superpowers towards our cause is constructive there will be no obstacle to good relations with them," Prince Saud said in an interview with the London-based Arabic magazine *Al-Majalla*.

But he said: "We deceive ourselves when we consider that our relationship with the great powers was based on friendship."

In the interview, published ahead of the visit to Saudi Arabia this week of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Prince Saud said a dialogue between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union existed and was continuing.

Saudi diplomats abroad met Soviet ambassadors, "but circumstances have not presented themselves for an exchange of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union," he said.

Saudi Arabia has no diplomatic relations with communist bloc countries.

Prince Saud said he hoped the Soviet Union would be effective and positive on problems of the Middle East. But the invasion of



Prince Saud Al Faisal

Afghanistan had deepened suspicion of Moscow's designs in the region.

Commenting on the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) to protect the Gulf, he said: "There are no interests for any power in the Gulf except those of the people of the Gulf."

"Interests and the security of the Gulf can only be protected by the states of the Gulf," Prince Saud added.

Pope Paul receives Islamic delegation



Pope Paul II

VATICAN CITY, April 6 (AP) — Pope John Paul II today received in private audience representatives of the Islamic Conference and exchanged views on the Iraq-Iran war, Vatican sources reported.

The delegation was led by Mr. Habib Chatti, a former Tunisian foreign minister now serving as secretary-general of the Islamic Conference and included, Mr. Gin Abnet of Turkey, the conference's permanent observer to the United Nations.

The sources said the Islamic official briefed the Pontiff their effort to bring about a negotiated settlement of the Gulf war. Since the war began last year, the Pope repeatedly has called for an international initiative to end the conflict.

Riyadh, Doha to launch petrochemical industry

DOHA, April 6 (AP) — Saudi Arabia and Qatar have embarked on massive joint projects to develop their petrochemical and iron and steel industries, according to official announcements here today.

The two countries were said to be keen on utilising their vast oil and gas resources to set up infrastructures in the two fields of industry under joint ventures.

The Saudi minister for industry and electricity, Dr. Ghazi Al Ghusaini, arrived yesterday and signed a cooperation accord with the Qatari minister of finance and petroleum, Sheikh Abdel Aziz Bin Hamad Al Thani.

The agreement calls for setting up joint venture projects between the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Company (SABIC) and the Qatari General Establishment for Petroleum to develop their petrochemical industries.

Saudi Arabia is investing \$14

billion in gas gathering projects, part of which is to be directed to the petrochemical domains.

Qatar also was reported to have earmarked unspecified billions of dollars for similar purposes.

Details of the agreement were not immediately available. Industry sources said the two countries were bent on averting duplications

in the field of petrochemical industries and have set up joint committees to conduct coordination and feasibility studies in this connection.

A joint committee was to conduct economic viability studies, cost price and market conditions before defining the types of projects to be built in the two regions.

At seminar in Rome Arabs, S. Europeans to discuss cooperation

KUWAIT, April 6 (AP) — Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah flew to Rome today to attend a three-day seminar on ways of accelerating cooperation in the fields of economic development between the Arab

oil countries and southern European states.

The seminar, opening tomorrow in the Italian capital, is to be jointly sponsored by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Italian state oil company ENI.

In Bahrain, the Gulf news agency reported that Mr. Youssef Shirawi, minister of industry and planning also left for Rome to take part in the seminar.

Also attending will be ministers from Syria, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, and experts from Italy, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Portugal, Spain, Cyprus, Malta and other south European countries.

Kuwait's Sheikh Ali is to deliver a lecture on "development of downstream oil operations in oil producing countries."

Somali opposition group launched in London

LONDON, April 6 (R) — A Somali opposition group calling itself the Somali National Movement (SNM) was launched in London today with the declared aim of overthrowing the government of Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre.

Its executive includes former planning minister, Mr. Ahmad Ismail Abdi and former Somali civil servants and diplomats.

Mr. Abdi, in a speech at the SNM's inaugural meeting, attacked President Siad Barre's administration.

"Productivity is zero, farms are neglected, the skilled manpower

has emigrated, all talent has left the country," he said.

International aid sent to feed the 1.5 million refugees from neighbouring Ethiopia was not reaching those for whom it was intended.

In a statement of its aims, SNM said the voice of the Somali people had been brutally silenced and it wanted a democratic parliamentary system of government.

It opposed the stationing of foreign troops in Somalia, where the United States has a strategically important base at the Berbera entrance to the Red Sea.

Seychelles raps Morocco for West Sahara policies

VICTORIA, Seychelles, April 6 (R) — President Albert Rene of Seychelles has accused Morocco of using the politics of expansionism and extermination in the Western Sahara.

He reaffirmed support for the Polisario front guerrilla movement that is fighting for Western Saharan independence and proclaimed a Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

Mr. Rene was speaking after the arrival of Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, who is on an African tour.

Algeria is the Polisario's main backer and President Chadli is expected to urge African leaders to support a Polisario bid to join the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) at a heads of state meeting in Nairobi in June.

At the last OAU summit, in Sierra Leone, 26 of the 50 member states said the SADR should be admitted. Morocco threatened to quit if it was.

President Rene attacked the "intrigues of imperialism" in Africa and said part of the imperialist manoeuvres were "the politics of expansionism and extermination by Rabat against the people of the Western Sahara."

He denounced what he called Morocco's attempts to destabilise Mauritania.

The Western Sahara was ceded to Morocco and Mauritania by Spain in 1976, but Mauritania has since signed a cease-fire with the Polisario Front.

Last month, dissident army officers tried to overthrow the Mauritanian government.

President Chadli is due to leave for Tanzania today.

Saudis lift the veil on brides-to-be

By Ali Mahmoud

MECCA: After 14 centuries of scrupulous adherence to an austere Islamic orthodoxy, Saudi Arabia's clergy have decided that blind marriage is unfair.

A committee of *fugahaa*, learned interpreters of the Koran, has ruled that women may unveil their faces to prospective bridegrooms. Once the engagement formalities are firm, the couple may see each other with the female removing her veil for his sake, according to the ruling.

"Any man forbidding his daughter or sister from meeting her fiancé face-to-face will be judged as sinning," the committee declared.

Men have depended on their mothers or sisters to look for prospective wives, and customarily see the face of the woman they take in marriage only at *zafrah*, the marriage consummation ceremony.

The mother of the would-be groom would initiate the process with a visit to the family of the chosen girl. The mother offers the girl hard nuts and insists that she cracks them with her teeth, to test their strength and ascertain these are not false.

The mother also might pull the hair of the girl, to make sure it is natural.

If the mother is clever and glib, she might surreptitiously get a snapshot of the girl and sneak it to her son.

If the mother's role proves difficult, a professional matchmaker, or *Khabeh*, takes over.

"Islam recognises the legitimacy of proposers seeing their prospective wives," the directorate of fatwa and guidance announced on March 25. It also ruled that forcing women into marriages is a "practice devoid of any religious basis."

The ministry of justice also ruled that *Sharia*, Islamic law,

permits proposers to see and talk to the prospective bride — but this should be done only in the presence of chaperones. The ministry said a chaperone should be a close female kin of the prospective bride or a man whose marriage to her is forbidden, such as her father, brother or uncle.

Saudi young men and women rejoiced, while elders were reluctant to absorb the new rulings.

"If the Koran says so then it must be correct," said Mr. Mussayel Al-Hindi, a Meccan taxi driver and father of four teen-age girls. "But, to tell you the truth, this all will go against the principles we inherited from our fathers and grandfathers."

Mr. Muteh Hussein, a 24-year-old merchant, said the new rules will "solve lots of problems."

"It often happens in our society that a groom is shocked with disappointment when he sees his bride for the first time at *zafrah*," he said. "He will either desert or neglect her."

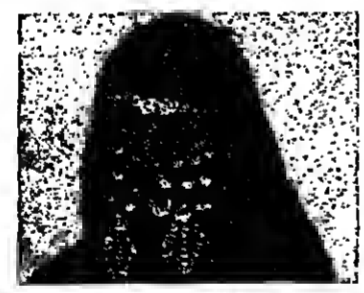
The rulings made frontpage headlines in newspapers around the Gulf region.

"It is a step forward," said one Saudi banker. "Our religion is progressive, but we are backward. It is high time we rediscovered our Islam, the most realistic religion ever imparted on mankind."

Although the Saudis are pushing industrial and economic development, they tend to resist any change in the social norms of their intrinsically bedouin desert society. Those norms condone polygamy and regard women as an instrument for men's pleasure.

However, the Saudi government accords top priority to the education of females, but segregated from boys. Women teach primary school. There are women doctors, nurses and social workers who are allowed to work only with their own sex.

Restricting women to their homes or to jobs that have nothing



A Saudi woman artist portrays the veil

to do with men has forced the government to import large numbers of foreign workers.

Saudi women in urban regions, mainly in the oil centre in eastern Saudi Arabia, were said to be quietly trying to talk officials into granting them drivers' licenses.

Only men are allowed to drive here, and women complain that hired drivers are scarce and expensive. Yet resistance is strong.

A traffic police superintendent complained that it would be improper for a traffic officer to stop and question a female driver. And he cautioned that, in the event of a flat tire, a woman driver would have to remove her veil to replace the wheel. (AP)

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MIDDLE EAST BRIEFS

Iran, Russia to discuss transport problems in the Caspian Sea

TEHRAN, April 6 (R) — Iranian officials will discuss problems linked with the transshipment of goods through Caspian Sea ports at a meeting of the joint Soviet-Iranian economic commission later this month, the official Pars news agency reported yesterday.

Much of Iran's trade with east and west Europe passes through Soviet ports on the inland sea and the route has taken on added importance due to the six-month-old war with Iraq which has seriously hampered imports through the Gulf ports. Pars said the Iranian mission would include officials from the ports and navigation organisation, foreign ministry, and transport organisation.

International trade union to examine Turkish conditions

BRUSSELS, April 6 (R) — Conditions in Turkey under the six-month-old military government are to be examined by an international trade union delegation that left here today for Ankara. The mission, led by Martin Kersten, general secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), will spend a week visiting Ankara and Istanbul. It plans to examine trade union rights and proposed new rules restricting the way unions can operate, an ICFTU spokesman said.

Kurdish rebel mine kills 15 Iranians

TEHRAN, April 6 (R) — Fifteen people were killed when a truck they were riding in hit a land mine near the Kurdish town of Naqadeh in the troubled province of West Azerbaijan on Saturday, revolutionary guards said today. A spokesman for the guards said the mine had been planted by "counter revolutionaries". He said all the victims were civilians. The term

Five terrorists arrested in Cairo

CAIRO, April 6 (AP) — Five persons, identified as agents of an unidentified Arab hostile organisation, have been arrested on charges of plotting to bomb public installations in Egypt, Cairo press reports said last week.

The reports said the five terrorists infiltrated into Egypt recently after receiving training in an unnamed Arab country opposing Egypt's peace moves with Israel.

The nationality of the arrested were not disclosed although the paraphrasing of the reports indicated they are Egyptian. The reports said an unspecified "quantities" of bombs and explosives were found in their possession when arrested. No further details were given.

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4. Tinsmith (duct and insulation lagging, fabrication and installation)

Applicants are required:

- a) To have a good command of English
- b) To pass the qualification test
- c) To contact site manager for test at 9 a.m. every day from April 8 to April 11.

Site manager
Samwhan Corporation
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Topped by government defeats Rome caught in the crisis

Italy has needed an economic austerity programme for some time, but that fact has been masked by last year's expansion of the economy and frustrated by general difficulty of governing Italy.

By James Buxton

ROME: The economic crisis which has just stolen up on Italy may have been unexpected in its timing, but it had been a long time in the making.

Last year, when other industrial economies were deflating and going into recession, the Italian economy continued to expand — by nearly 4 per cent. When export markets turned down, manufacturers simply diverted their products to the buoyant domestic market, and let the balance of payments take the strain — with a record annual deficit of £2.9 billion financed by borrowing on the Euromarket.

The Government took the first serious deflationary measures in July, and introduced a credit squeeze at the end of September, when Sig. Francesco Cossiga's Administration was suddenly defeated. But the measures were not sufficient to do more than stop inflation rising any further. It ended the year at about the same level as it had begun, 21 per cent.

When the lira fell sharply against the dollar in late January this year, the Bank of Italy introduced new curbs on credit expansion, but a few weeks later Dr. Carlo Ciampi, the governor, was still warning of the need to cut inflation and the payments deficit.

The fact that the payments deficit for February was lire 1,614 billion, three times the previous month's figure, and that the February inflation figure was virtually unchanged at 19.5 per cent, brought home to the Government the scale of the crisis. But the decisive factor was the sudden pressure on the lira, stemmed by the Central Bank just before the emergency package at the cost of about \$1 billion.

Until recently, a series of exceptional factors protected the lira. As the dollar rose steadily towards the end of last year, all the European Monetary System currencies were being devalued together almost indiscriminately against the U.S. currency. At the same time, the D-mark was beset by the problems of the West German economy, and for a time the lira actually appreciated against it.

The recent strengthening of the D-mark put an end to this process, and made it inevitable that Italy would sooner or later have to pay the inflation rate twice that of nearly all other European Community countries, even though the lira has always had a much wider fluctuation band within the Euro-

pean Monetary System (6 per cent compared with 2.25 per cent) to take account of this fact.

Behind the chronically high inflation and the high consumption rate — Sig. Arnaldo Forlani, the Prime Minister, recently likened Italy to a family which had spent more than it earned — lie important political facts.

The first is that the *Scala mobile* — the "moving scale" system of indexation, which triggers wage increases almost in line with inflation every three months — is an untouchable element in the unwritten agreement between Italy's rulers and ruled.

It is the workers' reward for tolerating a political system in which the party representing a vast number of them — the Communist Party — is not allowed to take power.

The other fact is that a coalition government of the kind that Sig. Forlani leads — embracing the Christian Democrats and three of the smaller parties somewhere to their left — would not at the best of times be an instrument for taking really restrictive economic measures which would make people feel substantially worse off.

These factors have been accentuated by the particularly unhappy experience of Sig. Forlani's Government, which has had to grapple with exceptional problems almost from the moment it took office — the oil tax evasion scandal, the earthquake last November, then the Red Brigades kidnapping around Christmas.

Now the parties, including the Christian Democrats who have a great array of clients to support in the south, are concentrating their attention on the June local elections, and stressing what they are doing for their particular interest groups.

On top of all this has come the series of parliamentary defeats for the Government in the past month, caused by apparent inattention among MPs of the majority. These have led to additions to the budget deficit of about £5,000 billion of recurrent expenditure, and to the possible subtraction of between £1,500 billion of anticipated revenue.

Deep differences of view exist between the three main Economic Ministers drawn from the Christian Democrat, Socialist and Republican parties.

While Sig. Nino Andreatta, the Minister of the Treasury, has wanted tighter controls on spending, Sig. Giorgio La Malfa, the Budget Minister, has been promoting a three year plan of his own

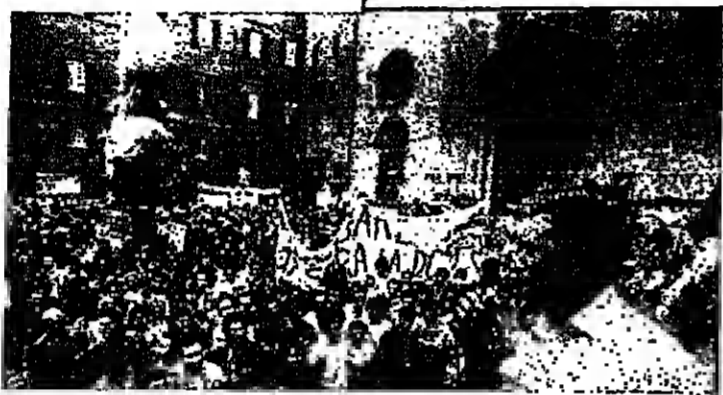
devising. Although it has not been published, it emphasises investment in industry and infrastructure (notably in badly needed power stations), partly financed from abroad.

The tension with Sig. Andreatta has been caused by the plan's emphasis on expenditure, even though it envisages a shift in the balance of the budget deficit towards capital, as opposed to current spending, as well as keeping the deficit static.

The plan was passed by the cabinet last month and is the framework in which the government hopes to cut current spending as part of the latest austerity measures, while making such cuts palatable by holding out the prospect of renewed growth.

For the government wants to bring its budget deficit back down to what it previously intended by trimming some spending items, including social security, instituting a type of pay freeze for public sector workers, and rolling back a recently agreed pay deal with doctors.

The trouble is that these measures either require parliamentary



Economic issues have invariably been paramount in Italy's election campaigns. (Gamma photo)

approval, which on recent form may be in doubt despite Sig. Forlani's appeal for greater responsibility and self discipline, or union agreement which, against the background of continuing public service strikes and inter-union competition, seems distinctly improbable.

Hope must therefore be invested in the monetary and credit measures — the devaluation and the rise in the bank rate by 2.5 per cent to 19 per cent. These are the measures, along with rises in taxes and charges for state services, with which the Italian economy has long been run, and provided the 6 per cent devaluation is sufficient, they should be effective.

The tighter credit squeeze is necessary to ensure that Italians do not continue to import at previous levels of volume at the newly increased cost, and that the necessary shift in resources from the

domestic economy to exports takes place.

The Italian economy is traditionally highly responsive to this sort of measure. An impressive level of industrial investment has been achieved over the past two years, and big Italian companies appear to be breaking out of the straitjacket of manpower restrictions and debt which crippled them in the 1970s, while the smaller companies retain great vitality.

Tourism will benefit from devaluation, as will farmers. Inflation should come down to about 15 per cent this year, and the payments deficit should gradually subside. But the necessary structural move away from excessive government current spending may be too much to expect from the present government.

(Financial Times news features)

Music and film piracy -- a menace to the industry

GENEVA (R) — Representatives of 40 governments met recently here to discuss ways to fight international pirates who deprive legitimate record and cassette companies of millions of dollars a year.

The companies estimate the bootleggers control nearly 10 per cent of the world market in records, tapes and films and took in \$1.5 billion last year.

Today's pirates have little of the glamour of their predecessors although the takings are richer. Instead of operating on the high seas in leaky galleons, they work from back alleys with high-speed duplicators and a batch of cheap tapes.

"Nowadays, record pirates are often the same people who are active in other illegal enterprises such as the trade in dangerous drugs," says the International Federation of Producers of Phonograms and Videograms (IFPI), linking the legitimate music and videotape business in 68 countries.

"In the United States and Europe, for example, it is clear that there are close links between record piracy and organised crime," the federation reports. "In South East Asia there are many indications of similar connections."

From Europe to Asia piracy has created a crisis for record and film producers, leading the United Nations copyright protection organisation to call a special three-day meeting here last month.

The 40 government delegations were here to attend the worldwide forum on the piracy of sound and audiovisual recordings convened by the Geneva-based World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). "We are not talking about the person at home who puts a record on cassette or who videotapes a television programme," a WIPO official said. "We are talking about big business — commercial piracy on a large scale."

In Turkey, pirate recordings of the disco hit films "Grease" and "Saturday Night Fever" went on sale before the authorised versions could even be produced.

"In the United States, pirate video cassettes of the films "Star Wars", "Close Encounters of the Third Kind", and "Apocalypse Now", were on the market even before these films were released in cinema halls," the International Labour Organisation (ILO) said in a report to the forum. The ILO keeps a special watch over piracy because of the revenue lost by entertainers and actors.

The ILO said that a French trade union had estimated that if piracy continued unchecked throughout the world during the next five years, one half of the record companies would close down.

More than 100,000 people are estimated to work in producing, manufacturing and distributing records in the European Common Market (EEC). But the pirates also rob thousands of artists and composers.

One French singer found that his whole act had been pirated in Latin America when he turned up for a scheduled concert and was challenged about his identity. A man using his songs, his beard and beret style and even his name had already been through the region.

IFPI estimates that about 18 per cent of all pre-recorded tapes sold in the U.S. are pirate-produced. In most of western Europe the percentage is estimated at less than 10 per cent, and often less than five per cent.

But the proportion reaches about 35 per cent in Italy and as much as 80 per cent in Portugal, IFPI said in a paper prepared for the meeting.

In Latin America the rates vary between 10 per cent in Uruguay to about 50 per cent in some central American States. But more than

80 per cent of the tape market last year went to pirates in India, Indonesia, South Korea, Singapore and Thailand, IFPI also reported.

Western Europe and the U.S. accounted for some of the international traffic in pirate recordings. "But the really massive export trade in pirate product is from Southeast Asia to all over the world," IFPI says.

Worldwide figures for videotape piracy are not available. But the ILO notes estimates that video piracy accounted for nearly 30 per cent of the legal market in the United States last year.

"In other parts of the world the situation is even more serious," the ILO said. "Seventy-five per cent of the video cassettes in the Middle East and 80 per cent in India are illegal."

One problem about stopping the pirates is the ease with which they can set up their operations. Mr. David Gibbins, director of IFPI's anti-piracy operations, reports: "In most parts of the world, the capital cost of a high-speed duplicator, the only piece of equipment necessary for commercial reproduction of cassette tapes, can be paid for out of the proceeds of approximately 40 running hours of the equipment."

Another obstacle, IFPI says, is that fines for piracy in some coun-

tries are low. In Britain the maximum fine for a first offence is two sterling per copy. This contrasts with the U.S., where maximum fines for a first offence can go up to \$25,000.

But government clampdowns can work. Hong Kong set up an anti-piracy unit as part of its customs and excise service in 1973. The industry believed then that 50 pirated copies were produced for every legitimate cassette tape recording sold. Now the pirates' share of the market is put at less than five per cent.

The record business rejects charges that it is to blame for the success of the pirates because of high prices charged for legitimate cassettes and denies that the way to defeat the boot-leggers is to cut costs.

"The record pirate has hardly any of the expenses of the genuine manufacturer," says IFPI Director-General John Hall. Since he only pirates successful recordings — which are incidentally a small percentage of all the recordings made — he takes no commercial risks.

"The legitimate producer can therefore never compete successfully with the pirate by lowering his prices, but the pirate can ruin the legitimate producer and drive him out of business."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

MOWNE
LULKS
ATEQUE
KIRBEC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "_____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AWFUL DAILY CAMPER KETTLE
Answer: What the nervous pianist was— ALL KEYPED UP

THE BETTER HALF

By Vinson

"I shampooed the carpet while you were out, so watch out for that slippery creme rinse."

THE Daily Crossword

by Marion Moeser

ACROSS 27 Favor strongly
5 Opera heroine
10 Wheels for hire
13 Hissess
14 Songs for SA
15 Ms Cinders
16 Tima teller
18 Smaller amount
19 Winter flyer
20 Haggard heroine
21 Arranga for seats
22 Address Tains
25 Inner: prof.

27 Favor strongly
31 In the know
35 Relish
36 Performer
37 Mountbat-ton, a.g.
38 Latin dance
40 Hialeah matters
41 Deficiency ailment
43 Heavenly stata
45 Modern beam
46 Like some claims
47 Location for Scarlett
50 Pod or corn

51 Lean
54 Wana
56 Fleer
61 "— valley—"
62 James Bond adversary
65 Stone and Iron
66 Gallie good-bye
67 Modern painter
68 Telk
69 Unwanted person
70 Stevenson villain

23 Author Hobson
24 Teacher
26 Chinese universal principle
27 — Dale
28 Fathers in Pance
29 Fan-leaved trees
30 Greek communes
32 Kostelanatz
33 Made over
34 Lioness
35 Sound loudly
36 Frolic
38 Ram
39 Ram

DOWN
1 BIRD sounds
2 Shah Jehan's city
3 Smashup
4 In case
5 Marble
8 "A men — mouse?"
7 Prudes
8 Hidden provisions
9 Pale
10 Nita queen, for ahort
11 Too
12 Take sun
15 Breathing space
17 Chinese money units

42 Songwriting brother
44 Iale Colum-bus found
48 Imperial
49 One's psd
51 Fact-bender
52 Ms Swenaon
53 Ladder part
55 Radar mark
57 Looped cross
58 Repuliva
59 Requirement
60 Branched diagram
63 Balmora's river
64 Covering

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:
27/71

Peanuts

HOW'S THE GAME GOING? IF YOU NEED ME TO PITCH, I'M READY ANY TIME...

CHUCK, YOU'RE GONNA DRIVE ME CRAZY! CAN'T YOU UNDERSTAND WE DON'T NEED YOU TO PITCH?!

WE NEED YOU TO SELL POPCORN!!

IF I WERE PITCHING, I'D GIVE THIS NEXT GUY NOTHING BUT CURVE BALLS!

Andy Capp

THANKS FOR TAKIN' ME BACK, PET. YOU'RE WELCOME

I'LL BE DIFFERENT IN FUTURE

GOOD — PERHAPS YOU'LL ALLOW ME SOME LATITUDE WHEN I'M OUT WITH YOU, EH?

IF YOU ALLOW THIS LAD SOME LATITUDE, HE GOES IN FOR THE WHOLE 180 DEGREES

Mutt 'n' Jeff

OH, DEAR, SHOPPING IS SUCH A HEADACHE!

SUPER SALE

OH, I FEEL DIZZY, MUTT! EVERYTHING IS GETTING BLACK! I'M GOING TO FAINT!

WATER FOUNTAIN

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